TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2001 LB 543

where, in response to some things that I said on the floor, some guy from the Health Department or the schools walked through that former cereal factory in Omaha and said he didn't see any mice. Well, you could have a hundred mice in your house, and if you're walking around in the house you're not going to see any. They don't come out there for you to see them. You see evidence of the mice. Senator Brashear and I were talking, and he was on...he was in Hawaii, or someplace, and people told him how many rats were on the island; how near you are to a rat whenever you're anywhere on that island. But he hadn't seen Because rats do not like to be seen. So he walked down the halls, he didn't see a mouse, so he said there are no mice here. Didn't see a rat; there are no rats here. That's the kind of nonsense that we must contend with. So I, for my part, intend to speak, and speak, and speak again on all of these related issues. And you-all are going to have to persuade me that I should support a plan that's going to put money into a segregated, discriminatory system that segregates my children, that discriminates against my children, that sends the least competent teachers to preside over my children. And I want you to persuade me, a man who knows how to read English...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and understand it, who can understand when English is spoken, that I should vote to send money to a system that is systematically destroying my children. No way. You won't get that from me. So we're going to have plenty of time. And by the time we get through, you're going to understand these 22 so-called academies. How much sense does it make to simply change the name of a stigmatized group? That is insulting. It's like the way white people want to hang titles on black people. If it's an old black person, they call him Colonel or Judge. They will see a black woman and say, what is your name, Venus Milo Clevens? White people think that's funny. And as a child I came up through that stuff, and I watched it in movies and on television.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And it never was funny to me.